

### IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before taking any further action in this case, please amend the specification on page 14, third paragraph to read as follows.

“In practice, this degeneracy is not too critical, since it leads to simply a DC offset of the signals. Moreover, if each layer has at least one pixel that is black (i.e., signal value of zero), this degeneracy can be removed using the positivity constraint. This is because subtracting an offset from any of the layers will lead to at least one negative valued pixel, which violates the positivity constraint. The result of solving the constrained least-square problem is shown as ~~red~~ the upper curve in FIG. 3D ~~curves in FIGS. 3D~~ and the lower curve in FIG. 3E. As shown, these reconstructed signals differ from the input signals only by small random noise. In other words, solving the optimization problem with constraints appears to fix the degeneracy in the system. It should be noted, however, if there is some layer that has no black pixel (i.e.,  $f_i \geq c$ , where  $c > 0$ ), the solution can only be determined up to an offset of  $c$ .”